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ONE HUNDRED SIXTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

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March 8, 2000

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The Honorable Janet Reno  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Tenth and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear General Reno:

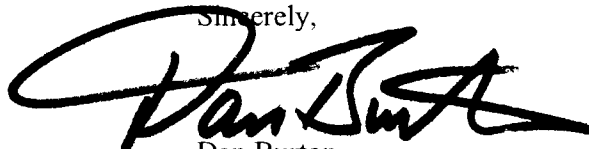
I am concerned that the Department of Justice has made no effort to obtain an entire category of documents that has potential bearing on the Campaign Finance investigation. Yesterday, the Committee learned that hundreds of thousands of e-mails sent to White House employees from outside the White House complex have never been reviewed to determine whether they are responsive to document requests and subpoenas. These e-mails were received during the critical 1996-1998 time frame. As of yesterday, the Justice Department had made no effort to contact individuals who manage White House e-mails, and there is no indication that you have ever pushed the White House for a review of this information, despite the fact that this matter has been reported in the press.

The appearance created by this failure is that you have no intention of pursuing a vigorous investigation of the White House.

In his memorandum recommending the appointment of an Independent Counsel, Charles LaBella wrote: "The contortions that the Department has gone through to avoid investigating these allegations are apparent." He also wrote: "If these allegations involved anyone other than [redacted name], an appropriate investigation would have commenced months ago without hesitation." Recently we learned that you deemed it irrelevant to question the President about James Riady's offer of one million dollars or about any other facet of the foreign fundraising scandal. We also discovered that your prosecutors failed to ask the Vice President about the Hsi Lai Temple event. Earlier, we learned that a search warrant for Charlie Trie's home was quashed just before it could be served. Now we find that you apparently aren't even hiding behind the pretense that the White House should produce information relevant to the campaign finance investigation.

I request that you inform this Committee of the steps you are going to take to address the White House's failure to provide the Justice Department with critical information.

Sincerely,



Dan Burton  
Chairman